Attorney Docket No.: ID01152 Application No.: 09/825,423 Filing Date: 04/03/2001

First Named Inventor: Patricia C. Weber et al.

PTO/SB/67 (06-03)
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Odell, Lindsay T.

HEPATITIS C VIRUS

In re application of:

NS3 HELICASE FRAGMENTS

Patricia C. Weber et al.

Serial No.: 09/825,423

Filing Date: April 3, 2001

Attorney Docket No.: ID01152 US

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Kenilworth, NJ 07033 March 17, 2005

Mail Stop: AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action dated February 7, 2005 in the above-referenced application, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire March 7, 2005 and an extended statutory period set to expire April 7, 2005. Applicants hereby petition the Office for a one-month extension of time for responding to the Action and submit herewith form PTO/SB/22, which authorizes the Office to charge the appropriate fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) to applicants' deposit account.

The Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 to one of eight inventions, designated I-VIII. Applicants elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-5 and

7-17, drawn to a polypeptide fragment of an HCV helicase derived from subdomain I.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to file divisional applications to the presently nonelected subject matter.

If the undersigned can be of assistance to the Examiner in addressing issues to advance the application to allowance, please contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

maked Bino

Michael G. Biro

Reg. No. 46,556

Schering-Plough Corporation Patent Department Mail Stop K-6-1, 1990 2000 Galloping Hill Road Kenilworth, NJ 07033-0530

Phone: (908) 298-5098 Fax: (908) 298-5388